

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 L-03 IGA-02

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PRS-01 NEAE-00 /050 W

-----051616Z 079958 /46

R 051450Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6776

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR

S E C R E T JIDDA 0126

SECDEF FOR OSD/ISA/DSAA/SA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA, US

SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

REF (A) DHAHRAN 0009, (B) 76 JIDDA 7145

1. DURING A MEETING IN RIYADH ON JAN 2 WITH BG AHMANN, CHUSMTM, SAG MINDEF PRINCE SULTAN SAID THAT THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WOULD SIGN THE USMTM MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU) AND, THEREAFTER, SULTAN WOULD SIGN USMTM SUPPORT LOA (CASE AAA). PRINCE SULTAN SAID THAT HE HOPED AMB PORTER WOULD SIGN THE MOU FOR THE U.S. AND THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD AGREE THAT ARTICLE 8 WAS SUBJECT TO FURTHER NEGOTIATIONS.

2. SULTAN THEN SAID THAT HE HOPED THE U.S. SIDE WOULD BE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE ARTICLE 8 WITH A DEGREE OF UNDERSTANDING OF HIS POSITION. HE STATED THAT IF THE U.S. INSISTED ON WHAT AMOUNTED TO DIPLOMATIC IMMUNITY FOR ALL U.S. MILITARY IN-COUNTRY HE WOULD RECEIVE MANY COMPLAINTS FROM HIS OFFICERS AND CONSIDERABLE CENSURE FROM OTHERS NOT AS PRO-AMERICAN AS HE IS.

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3. PRINCE SULTAN WENT ON TO SAY THAT WE HAVE HAD NO UNSOLVABLE INCIDENTS INVOLVING U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL UNDER THE OLD ARTICLE 8 AND WOULD NOT HAVE ANY IN THE FUTURE. BASED ON THIS, HE COULD NOT UNDERSTAND WHY U.S. SIDE WOULD INSIST ON VERY STRONG WORDING OF ARTICLE 8 AND HOPED THAT THEY WOULD NOT.

4. PRINCE SULTAN THEN WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE WAS IN FAVOR OF THE USMTM AGREEMENT BEING THE BASIC AGREEMENT WITH AGREEMENTS FOR OTHER DOD AGENCIES BEING BRANCHES THEREFROM. THE ASKED IF CHUSMTM THOUGHT THIS WAS A GOOD IDEA. CHUSMTM REPLIED THAT HE SAW NO REASON TO CHANGE OTHER IN-FORCE AGREEMENTS WHICH WERE WORKING SATISFACTORILY AND THAT USMTM WAS A SPECIAL AND COMPLETELY DIFFERENT CASE IN THAT MUCH OF USMTM SUPPORT WAS PROVIDED AS AID IN KIND (AIK) AS OPPOSED TO REIMBURSEMENT OF THE USG.

5. SULTAN THEN STATED THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THIS SUBJECT WITH SECOND DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND NATIONAL GUARD COMMANDER PRINCE ABDULLAH AND MINISTER OF INTERIOR PRINCE NAIF AND THAT THEY ALL AGREED WITH HIM THAT THE USMTM MOU SHOULD BE THE BASIC GUIDELINE DOCUMENT FOR ALL DOD AGENCIES.

6. COMMENT: WE HAVE ALWAYS RECOGNIZED THE POSSIBILITY THAT MINDEF SULTAN MIGHT USE THE NEGOTIATIONS FOR THE USMTM MOU TO CHANGE THE STATUS OF OTHER US DOD AGENCIES IN THE COUNTRY. HIS INTENTION NOW IS QUITE EXPLICIT BUT WE DO NOT THINK THERE IS ANY CHANGE IMMEDIATELY IN THE OFFING AND IN ANY CASE IT MAY TAKE CONSIDERABLE TIME TO NEGOTIATE ARTICLE EIGHT OF THE MOU.
PORTER

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NNN

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